



# Somerville Office of Housing Stability



Mayor Joseph A. Curtatone  
City of Somerville

617-625-6600 Ext. 2581  
[somervillema.gov/ohs](http://somervillema.gov/ohs)

## Know Your Housing Rights & Resources During the COVID-19 Pandemic & Beyond

If you need assistance paying your rent or mortgage or are facing eviction, help is available in any language.  
Contact us at **617-625-6600 Ext. 2581** or visit [somervillema.gov/ohs](http://somervillema.gov/ohs) and click "MAKE A REFERRAL."

### About the City of Somerville Office of Housing Stability

The City of Somerville Office of Housing Stability (OHS) provides housing information, advice, referrals, support services, and advocacy.

#### **Services include:**

- ✓ Help resolving landlord/tenant matters, including evictions
- ✓ Referrals for legal services
- ✓ Help applying for rental assistance or mortgage assistance /forbearance
- ✓ Help accessing emergency shelter
- ✓ Housing search assistance and referrals
- ✓ Tenant outreach and education

For more information and to access OHS services, call **617-625-6600 Ext. 2581** or visit [somervillema.gov/ohs](http://somervillema.gov/ohs) and click "MAKE A REFERRAL." OHS staff members speak English, Spanish, Portuguese, and Somali and use Language Line for all other languages.



#### **Landlords, rental assistance is a win-win:**

Connecting tenants to resources early can benefit landlords, too. Properties stay occupied and paid for, and landlords *and* tenants avoid the cost and stress of eviction.

#### **Tenants, are you facing large rent increases?**

Is your building being sold? Would you like to schedule a Know Your Rights workshop or form a tenants' association? Contact Magdalena Gomez at Somerville Community Corporation, [mgomez@somervillecdc.org](mailto:mgomez@somervillecdc.org).

## Know Your Housing Rights & Resources During the COVID-19 Pandemic & Beyond

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### Know Your Rights: Eviction and Foreclosure

Temporary housing protections are in place during the COVID-19 pandemic, but policies can change quickly. Sign up for City alerts for updates at [somerillema.gov/alerts](https://somerillema.gov/alerts).

***Important: Only a court can order your eviction!***

#### ***City of Somerville Eviction Enforcement Moratorium***

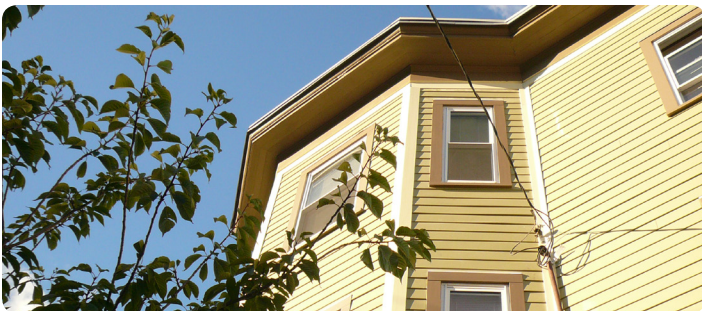
- Under this Emergency Order, the **physical removal** of Somerville residents is prohibited, even if a court gives permission to evict.
- Remains in effect until further notice.

#### ***Federal Eviction Moratorium***

- Some tenants may be protected from physical eviction through December 31.
- You must meet certain conditions and **send a signed declaration** to your landlord as soon as possible.
- Visit [somerillema.gov/ohs](https://somerillema.gov/ohs) for more information and a copy of the declaration form.

#### ***State Eviction and Foreclosure Moratorium***

- Expired October 17. The eviction process can be started or resumed (unless State Moratorium is reinstated).
- Physical evictions are still prohibited under the City’s Emergency Order.



You should still pay as much of your rent or mortgage as you can. Financial help is available – see the “Get Help with Rent or Mortgage Payments” section. If your landlord tries to evict you or remove your belongings during the COVID-19 emergency, contact the Office of Housing Stability. Legal help is available – see the “Get Legal Help” section.

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### Get Help with Rent or Mortgage Payments

While these housing protections are in place and after they end, it's critical that you continue to pay your rent or mortgage. Financial assistance is available through the agencies listed here, regardless of immigration status. Income limits or other eligibility criteria may apply.

**Apply now. Don't wait.** Rental and mortgage assistance takes time and is subject to availability.

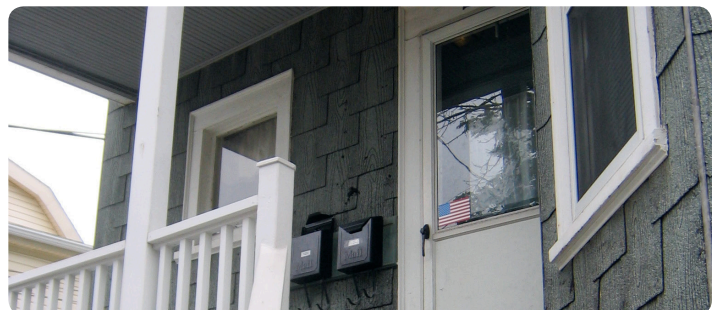
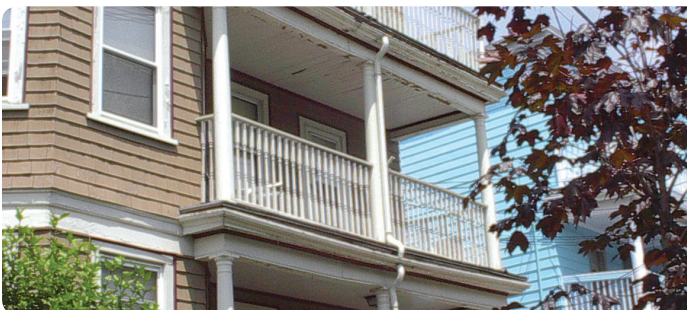
### RENTAL & MORTGAGE ASSISTANCE

- *Metro Housing Boston*  
Apply for RAFT/ERMA (State funds) at [metrohousingboston.org](https://metrohousingboston.org).
- *Mortgage Relief*  
Homeowners, you may be entitled to forbearance or foreclosure protection under the CARES Act, or your loan servicer may offer other options. Learn more at [bit.ly/CovidMortgageHelp](https://bit.ly/CovidMortgageHelp).

### RENTAL ASSISTANCE

- *Somerville Homeless Coalition*  
Apply for Rapid Response rental assistance at [somerillehomelesscoalition.org/rapid-response](https://somerillehomelesscoalition.org/rapid-response).  
617-623-6111
- *Community Action Agency of Somerville*  
**617-623-7370**  
Ashley Tienken, [atienken@caasomerville.org](mailto:atienken@caasomerville.org)
- *Just-A-Start*  
**617-494-0444**  
[contact@justastart.org](mailto:contact@justastart.org)

Need help, but not sure where to start? Call OHS at 617-625-6600 Ext. 2581 or visit [somerillema.gov/ohs](https://somerillema.gov/ohs) and click "MAKE A REFERRAL."



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### Get Legal Help

If your landlord does move forward with an eviction, try to get legal help as soon as possible. Free legal services are available for low-income tenants, regardless of immigration status.

- Cambridge & Somerville Legal Services, **617-603-1700**
- De Novo, **617-661-1010**
- Harvard Legal Aid Bureau, **617-495-4408**
- COVID-19 Eviction Diversion Initiative, visit [mass.gov/CovidHousingHelp](https://mass.gov/CovidHousingHelp) or dial 2-1-1

### The Somerville Housing Stability Notification Act

#### *Ensuring Residents Facing Eviction Know Their Rights and Where to Seek Help*

The Housing Stability Notification Act (HSNA) requires Somerville property owners to give tenants and foreclosed homeowners specific documents when they serve a notice to quit or lease nonrenewal.

These documents list:

- ✓ Resources for rental and legal assistance
- ✓ Tenants' rights and landlords' responsibilities in an eviction case

To see these documents, scan the QR code with your smartphone or visit [somervillema.gov/ohs](https://somervillema.gov/ohs) and click "HSNA Required Documents."

For documents in Spanish, Haitian Creole, Portuguese, and Nepali, visit [somervillema.gov/ohs](https://somervillema.gov/ohs).



If you do not receive HSNA required documents with a notice to quit or lease nonrenewal, call 311 to report a violation of the HSNA. If you need help, call the Office of Housing Stability at 617-625-6600 Ext. 2581.